

SYB B 37

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A computer system, comprising:  
2 a processor;  
3 at least one input/output device coupled to said processor;  
4 a flashable ROM device coupled to said processor and containing a configuration table; and  
5 a non-volatile, non-flashable memory device coupled to said processor and containing a  
6 extension configuration table;  
7 wherein configuration information can be added to the computer system by storing such  
8 configuration information in the non-volatile, non flashable memory device.

1 2. The computer system of claim 1 wherein, upon executing a set-up routine to configure the  
2 computer system for a newly installed device, said processor examines the flashable ROM device  
3 to determine whether configuration information pertaining to the newly installed device is present  
4 and, if not, said processor then examines the non-volatile, non-flashable memory device to  
5 determine whether the configuration information pertaining to the newly installed device is  
6 present.

1 3. The computer system of claim 2 wherein said non-volatile, non-flashable memory device  
2 comprises a non-volatile RAM device.

1    4.    The computer system of claim 2 wherein said configuration table and said extension  
2    configuration table include a plurality of entries with each entry including an option identifier and  
3    corresponding configuration data.

1    5.    The computer system of claim 4 wherein each option identifier and corresponding  
2    configuration data pertain to a circuit board.

1    6.    The computer system of claim 2 wherein said configuration table includes a plurality of  
2    entries with each entry including a board identifier and corresponding configuration data.

1    7.    The computer system of claim 6 wherein said extension configuration table includes  
2    storage capacity for a plurality of entries that include a board identifier and corresponding  
3    configuration data.

1    8.    A method of configuring a computer, comprising:  
2        adding a device to the computer;  
3        first searching a ROM memory in which configuration information is stored for the  
4        configuration information pertaining to the added device; and  
5        then, if the configuration is not found in the ROM memory, searching a non-volatile RAM  
6        memory for the configuration information.

1    9.    The method of claim 8 further including:  
2        flashing the ROM memory; and

3 determining whether any entries in the ROM memory duplicate entries in the non-volatile  
4 RAM memory; and  
5 if one or more duplicates are found, clearing the one or more duplicate entries from the  
6 non-volatile RAM memory.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the configuration information includes circuit board  
2 identifiers and corresponding configuration data.

1 11. The method of claim 9 wherein the configuration information includes operating system  
2 data.

1 12. The method of claim 8 further including storing configuration information in said non-  
2 volatile RAM memory instead of in the ROM memory when said device is added to the computer.

1 13. A method of flashing a ROM containing configuration information with a new set of  
2 configuration information in a computer system also including an NVRAM which contains an  
3 extension table having storage for configuration information, wherein new configuration is added  
4 to the NVRAM extension table instead of the ROM, said method comprising:

5 comparing entries in the new set of configuration information to be stored in the ROM  
6 against entries in the extension table in the NVRAM;

7 if a matching pair of entries is found, deleting the corresponding entry from the NVRAM;  
8 and

9 storing the new set of configuration information in the ROM.

1    14.    The method of claim 13 wherein the configuration information comprises board identifiers  
2    and corresponding configuration data.